

# Celebrating Collaboration

*Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body*

**You can get involved in the HSCB by attending a monthly meeting or by joining a workgroup!**

Where can YOU make a difference?

- Transportation
- Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship
- Substance Abuse • Homelessness
  - Healthy Youth • Hunger
  - Mental Health Awareness
  - Individuals with Disabilities
- Older Adults • Young Children
  - Community Data

## *In This Issue*

### **Legislation to Watch**

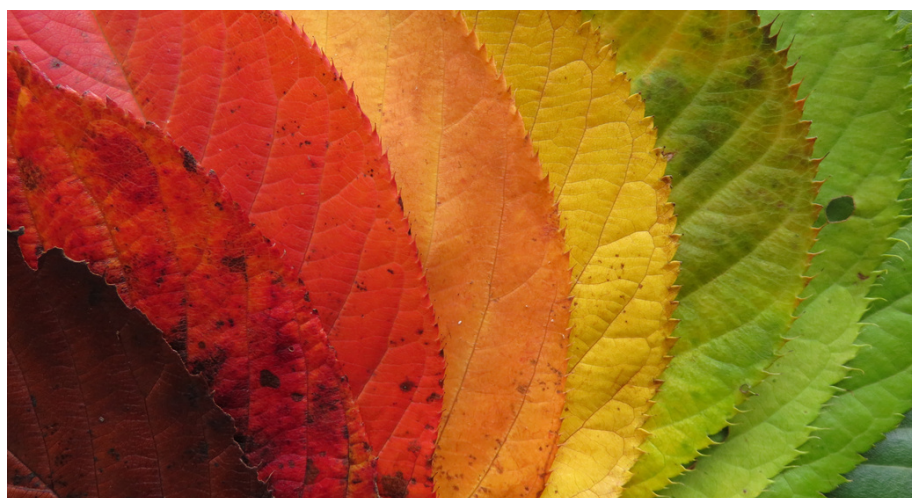
### **Stories of Hope**

### **Workgroup Spotlight**

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **HSCB**

Amy Johnston  
Collaborative Planner  
ajohnston@cmhliv.org



## **What's New in Livingston County?**

### **Michigan Works! Southeast has Moved!**

Great things are happening at Michigan Works! Southeast - Livingston County!

- **We've moved!**  
Our new address is 1200 Byron Road, Howell. We are here to serve you both virtually and in-person. Contact-us to request an appointment today or just stop by. We look forward to working with you from our new location!
- **Clean Slate is underway**  
Those in need of getting their criminal record expunged, go to our website to get started!  
[www.mwse.org/expungement](http://www.mwse.org/expungement)
- **#Mi-Internship Prep**  
If you are between the ages of 16 and 24, sign up for our FREE virtual internship prep course to jump-start your future and discover your interests, develop essential skills and create a professional portfolio. [www.mwse.org/mi-internship-prep](http://www.mwse.org/mi-internship-prep)

# LEGISLATION TO WATCH



This fall the Michigan House of Representatives will begin taking testimony on legislation set to improve Michigan's child welfare system. Included in these reforms are the **Kinship Navigator Program** and the **Kinship Caregiver Advisory Council within MDHHS**, which are aimed at framing child welfare policy in a way that better supports children and often older adult caregivers in "Kinship Families."

Kinship families are often informally arranged where extended relatives, like grandparents or aunts and uncles, step-up to become the primary caregiver when birth parents are unable to raise their own children. The role of kinship caregivers has grown immensely throughout the past decade due to the impact of the Opioid Crisis – placement of children with kin is preferred and it's estimated that over 60,000 Michigan children are raised in kinship families each year.

Kinship Caregivers generally don't receive the same level of support compared to foster families, and struggle to navigate the myriad of systems and challenges necessary for the children in their care. That is why this legislation is so important. The Advisory Council would bridge gaps in service delivery and devise a better coordinated system that responds to the needs of kinship caregivers. On the other hand, the Kinship Navigator Program would immediately help kinship caregivers navigate the system to access resources and services they might be eligible for.

OLHSA currently serves over 110 kinship caregivers with both formal and informal arrangements of relative children in Livingston, Oakland and Macomb counties with support groups, referrals and resources in the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. September is also "Kinship Care Month."

## Additional Bills to Watch:

Medicare Dental Benefit Act (HR 502/S97): This bill provides for Medicare coverage of dental and oral health services, including routine diagnostic and preventive services, basic and major dental services, and emergency care; dental prostheses are also covered. Currently, such services are excluded from Medicare coverage.

Elder Abuse Bills Packet HB 4472-4479: Currently in Judiciary Committee. These bills would make it a crime to assault or restrain an elder adult or vulnerable adult; expand a prohibition against embezzlement from a vulnerable adult to include an elder adult; prescribe penalties; define terms; and amend the sentencing guidelines, among other acts, to account for these changes. Each bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

The Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter is advocating for the creation of a **Dementia Unit within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**. With 190,000 Michiganders living with Alzheimer's disease (not including other forms of dementia) and over 500,000 caregivers, we need to ensure our state government fully represents and serves all those affected by dementia. This unit will include a dementia coordinator position to help secure federal funding, advocate policy, and coordinate state services for those impacted by dementia. The Alzheimer's Association is working with state lawmakers for the hopeful approval of the unit. Learn more at [alzimpact.org/michigan](http://alzimpact.org/michigan).

## Related Upcoming Events:

The Alzheimer's Association offers virtual and in-person programs for those affected by dementia, including education programs, social engagement programs, support groups, care consultations, and more. Learn more at [alz.org/gmc/offerings](http://alz.org/gmc/offerings) or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

Register for the **Brighton Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 2!** It will be in person with a virtual option for those not able to join in person. Register at [act.alz.org/brighton](http://act.alz.org/brighton).





## Health Department WIC Program

### Receives Successful Audit

The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) is proud to announce that the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program received zero citations during a recent state audit.

During the pandemic, the WIC caseload increased by 14% from 1,546 clients to 1,736. WIC provided these clients with \$835,549 in food dollars during 2020. LCHD is proud of their team for creating such a successful environment for the women, infants, and children of Livingston County. The WIC program provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education. WIC serves low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and infants and children who are found to be at nutritional risk.

## ARTISAN CORNER - WORK SKILLS WILL BE AT ARTPRIZE!

It's officially official-Artisan Corner's giant eco-awareness mural made out of 10,000+ donated bottle caps & buttons has been selected for ArtPrize 2021. "Gogh Big" (or go home) will be featured at Brush Studio during the September 16-October 3 event in Grand Rapids. This 6' x 8' masterpiece was a year in the making. Special thanks to our AMAZING artists, community, friends & families for donating bottle caps & buttons over the past two years. We received over half a million pieces that will be upcycled to create art instead of going to landfills.

Downtown Grand Rapids will be overflowing with art for 18 days, & we are thrilled to be a part of it! ArtPrize awards \$450,000 directly to artists, through grants to support their ambitious work & prizes determined by public input. New this year, as visitors explore the event, they will find QR codes on each entry label. Scanning these codes with their smartphones will lead them to prizes (cash & emotional responses) they can award to ArtPrize artists.

If you're already an ArtPrize fan, you know that this celebration of creativity, connection and community is a one-of-a-kind experience. If you're new to the event, we encourage you to attend and be a part of the joy, inspiration & excitement!



## Workgroup Spotlight: Hoarding Task Force

The Livingston County Hoarding Task Force is completing their first Safety Day Clean-Out for a Livingston County senior.

This major event could not be completed if it was not for the great collaboration amongst the following Livingston County agencies: Habitat for Humanity, Community Mental Health, Livingston County Catholic Charities, Recycle Livingston, Livingston County Sheriff's Dept. and St. Vincent DePaul - Holy Spirit. A local business, Home Depot of Howell, graciously donated supplies such as garbage bags, gloves, masks water and other essentials.

Most importantly, none of this could be done without the many volunteers who have helped with the clean out and providing food, drinks, and snacks to the hungry crew. Many hands make light work!



## Livingston County Catholic Charities Ongoing Events:

### Dementia Specific Caregiver Support Group

1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 5:00-6:00 pm  
Email [LeAnn@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org](mailto:LeAnn@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org)

### Elder Abuse Recovery Support Group

3rd Tuesday of each month, 3:00-4:00 pm  
Email [Beth@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org](mailto:Beth@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org)

### Foster Parent Orientation

3rd Monday of each month, 5:00-7:00 pm  
Email [Amy@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org](mailto:Amy@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org)

### Substance Abuse Engagement Groups

Mondays 5:00-6:30 pm & 6:30-8:00 pm (in-person) Wednesdays and  
Fridays 10:00 am-11:30 pm (Zoom)  
Email [Jessica@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org](mailto:Jessica@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org)

# Stories of Hope

The past year has been difficult for many individuals and families. It is our experience that in Livingston County, Community members and Agency's always strive to find ways to support our clients. Over the past few months, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Catholic Charities, Michigan MSU Extension, Livingston United Way, LESA, Salvation Army, Private Practices and other helping individuals have stepped up to provide support to our clients through the use of the county email "google group." Some examples of how members of this group have contributed include: helping families meet their basic needs, helping to cover transportation costs, providing emergency housing support/assistance, providing supplies and finances to make necessary home repairs, providing financial assistance for clients to attend community events/activities to work towards their goals and mental health needs.

Being able to use the "google group" as a way to reach numerous helping professionals is a unique and rewarding experience to be a part of. "We believe that when we invest in our community the community will thrive and grow together" – Wraparound Program Staff, LCCMHA.

If you are interested in joining the google group, reach out to Amy Johnston at [ajohnston@cmhliv.org](mailto:ajohnston@cmhliv.org).

## Stay Well Program: mental wellness practices for you & your staff

It's fair to say the COVID-19 pandemic has taken an emotional toll on all of us. The good news is, there is help available from Stay Well, a program created by behavioral health professionals at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Stay Well offers a variety of services and educational opportunities to help Michiganders cope with the emotional challenges of COVID-19. One of the program's longest-running services is the **Stay Well counseling line**. Free, confidential information and emotional support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the Stay Well line. Just dial **1-888-535-6136** and press **"8"** at the prompt. Stay Well counselors help people understand their feelings and reactions during a disaster like the COVID-19 pandemic. They are taught to listen, not judge, and help callers develop coping strategies.

Other offerings from the Stay Well program include:

- **Virtual support groups:** for first responders, healthcare professionals, teachers, older adults, parents, teens, and those who are grieving. These sessions are held via Zoom and moderated by Stay Well counselors. Participants have an opportunity to connect with others who can relate to their experiences and reactions. Register here: [Michigan.gov/StayWell](https://Michigan.gov/StayWell).
- **Psychoeducational webinars:** Tailored to specific audiences, these webinars help viewers understand that their emotional reactions to pandemic stressors are normal. For example, there is a webinar that addresses professional burnout and suggests ways to alleviate it. You can schedule a live webinar for your group by contacting Senior Outreach Specialist Erin Wallace at [brightleafllc@gmail.com](mailto:brightleafllc@gmail.com) or watch recorded webinars at [Michigan.gov/StayWell](https://Michigan.gov/StayWell).
- **Two special summertime webinar series:** The Summer Resilience Series, focusing on practices to help build resilience, and the "Draw Your Feelings" workshop series in which parents help their children develop emotional intelligence through simple art projects. Register for these programs at [Michigan.gov/StayWell](https://Michigan.gov/StayWell).





## HSCB Workgroup Orientations Materials

Did you know you can access the  
**HSCB New Member Binder**  
materials electronically?

To access this resource, check out  
the folder here: [bit.ly/3i78gh2](https://bit.ly/3i78gh2)

The **Homeless Continuum of Care** also has  
an Orientation Folder which you can find  
here: [bit.ly/3eQDeqO](https://bit.ly/3eQDeqO)

Haiku

**RISING FROM ASHES  
WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY  
INCREDIBLY STRONG**

-Anita Gibson

The Livingston County Consortium On Aging  
is proud to present

## Senior Celebration Days!



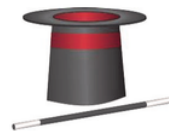
This year's Senior Celebration will take place at  
6 Livingston County Senior Centers!



**September is National Senior Centers Month!!**

With the help from our local Sponsors we will be providing  
a fun time with:

- Lunch provided by Senior Nutrition / Meals on Wheels
- Multiple Free Bingo Cards and games
- Bingo prizes for winners
- Raffle for gift basket provided by the Sponsor
- Magical Entertainment
- Ice Cream Social provided by Scream's Ice Cream



**Event time: 11am until 2pm**

Howell Senior Center:	1661 N. Latson Road, Howell, MI	517-579-2862	September 1st
Hamburg Senior Center:	10405 Merrill Road, Whitmore Lake, MI	810-222-1142	September 14th
Hartland Senior Center:	9525 E. Highland Road, Howell, MI	810-626-2135	September 16th
Brighton Senior Center:	850 Spencer Road, Brighton, MI	810-229-3818	September 21st
Putnam Senior Center:	350 Mower Road, Pinckney, MI	734-878-1810	September 22nd
Fowlerville Senior Center:	203 N. Collins Street, Fowlerville, MI	517-375-1123	September 29th

Contact your local Senior Center by August 23rd to pre-register for lunch!  
Lunch cost: \$5.00



Food, Fun, Great Info & Prizes!



[www.livingstoncoa.org](http://www.livingstoncoa.org)

OLHSA  
A Community Action Agency

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.  
Community Action Since 1964

Are you raising your grandchildren? You're not alone - many grandparents are assuming responsibility for their grandchildren. If you are raising children in your home, live in Oakland, Livingston or Macomb County, you are eligible to join OLHSA, A Community Action Agency, for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Virtual Support and Wellness Group.

OLHSA takes the health and safety of all our clients and staff as a top priority, until further notice all GRG support groups will be held virtually via Zoom.

- Network with grandparents who are raising grandchildren
- Learn valuable coping strategies and child rearing ideas
- Attend virtual support group meetings
- Participate in relaxing family wellness activities
- Get connected to useful community resources

Contact: 248-209-2721

Program Manager Lisa (phone/text 248-372-1915)  
or Program Assistant Martha 248-842-2597 (phone/text)

You can also visit [www.olhsa.org/olderadultservices](http://www.olhsa.org/olderadultservices)  
for more information.

OLHSA, A Community Action Agency, is funded in whole or in part by the Older Americans Act, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) through the Area Agency of Aging 1-B. OLHSA complies with the terms and regulations of the Title V of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and Section 504 of the Social Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and is an Equal opportunity employer. Reasonable accommodation will be provided upon notification or request. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



Ensuring a system  
of support for  
members of our  
community



Scan for Access  
to Community  
Resources



Or use website:

<https://bit.ly/3kMDzgG>

**Livingston County  
Human Services  
Collaborative Body**

622 E. Grand River Ave  
Howell, Michigan 48843  
Phone: 517.586.2039  
Fax: 517.552.2526  
[ajohnston@cmhliv.org](mailto:ajohnston@cmhliv.org)



**LETS would like to thank the HSCB and member organizations that provided letters of support** for our RAISE Grant application! If awarded, this project will allow LETS to construct a Multimodal Transportation Facility in the Brighton area which would provide many benefits to the community, including faster and more efficient demand-response service in the eastern half of the county, a permanent home for the Michigan Flyer airport shuttle service, and connections between LETS and regional transit providers. It would also serve as a stop on the proposed Grand River fixed-route service and provide a connection for non-motorized access to the route. It will likely be a few months before awards are announced. If we are not successful with this particular application, we will continue to submit this project for future grant opportunities.

